



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

DECATUR MAN SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS FOR CHILD PORN

URBANA, Ill — A Decatur man was sentenced this week to more than three years in federal prison after pleading guilty to possessing child pornography, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Decatur Police Department and U.S. Postal Inspection Service assisted in the investigation.

Travis Wilson, 28, was sentenced Monday to 37 months incarceration by Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey in U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois. As part of his sentence, Wilson also received three years supervised release, is required to submit to a DNA collection, and must register as a sex offender.

The investigation into Wilson stemmed from an international child pornography probe of a Belarus-based Internet billing company called Regpay. Regpay provided credit card billing services for some 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operated child porn websites on its own. A lead arising out of that investigation led to a search of Wilson's Decatur residence in June 2004. During the search ICE special agents seized a computer and other miscellaneous items that revealed the presence of child pornography.

Wilson pleaded guilty June 9, 2005 to one count of possessing child pornography. He was ordered to report to the federal Bureau of Prisons Jan. 6 to begin serving his sentence.

"Those who sexually exploit children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them," said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. "ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to combat this horrific behavior both here and abroad."

The Regpay investigation is part of a broader ICE initiative known as [Operation Predator](#), an enforcement effort to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,300 individuals nationwide, including more than 300 in Illinois.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators, and any suspicious activity, through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Timothy A. Bass, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, prosecuted this case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.